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#12

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Katsamberis
Serial No.: 09/747,250
Filed: December 21, 2000
Group Art Unit: 1775
Examiner: Piziali, Andrew T.
Title: COATED ARTICLE WITH POLYMERIC BASECOAT

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

BOX AF
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on February 1, 2002. Claims 1-15 remain in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Welty in view of Simmons, Jr. Welty discloses a coated article including a substrate 12. A nickel layer 13 is applied on the substrate 12, and layer 22 of a refractory metal or metal alloy is disposed over the nickel layer 13. A layer 32 of refractory metal compound of refractory metal alloy compound is vapor deposited over layer 22. Finally, a layer 34 of the reaction products of refractory metal or refractory metal alloy, oxygen and nitrogen is deposited over the layer 32. Welty does not disclose any layer of polymer. Simmons discloses a photocatalytic dielectric combiner element 30 layered on a hard polymer 32. The Examiner contends that it would be obvious to employ a polymer as suggested by Simmons in Welty.

There is no suggestion to replace the nickel layer of Welty with a polymer layer as suggested by Simmons. Welty only discloses employing a nickel layer on the substrate 12, and does not disclose or suggest employing nickel. Nothing in Welty suggests employing any other layer on the substrate 12 except for nickel. Applicant's claims are not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

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Additionally, providing polymer layer as required by Applicant's claims provides additional benefits and advantages over the prior art employing a nickel layer. As disclosed in Applicant's specification on page 2, a drawback to the prior art is that the nickel layer must be electroplated when applied to the substrate. Welty also discloses in column 2, lines 29 to 33, that the nickel layer 13 is deposited on the surface of the substrate 12 by a plating process, such as electroplating. Electroplating a nickel layer requires electroplating equipment, which is expensive. The process is also laborious and time consuming. Employing a polymer layer as claimed by Applicant eliminates the problems of the prior art as electroplating is not necessary. Applicant's claims are not obvious.

Claim 9 requires that the polymer layer is epoxy urethane. Neither reference discloses or suggests a layer of epoxy urethane as required by claim 9, and therefore the combination of these references does not disclose or suggest Applicant's claim 9. Simmons only discloses employing the polymer organic polyplate barrier (OPB). Claim 9 is further not obvious in view of the combination of Welty and Simmons.

Thus, claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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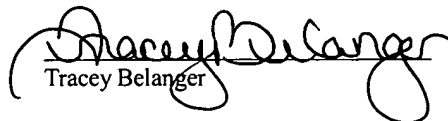
Dated: January 10, 2003



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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Request for Reconsideration is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Box AF, Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on this 10th day of January, 2003.


Tracey Belanger

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